

The Solar System • Skills Lab**Stormy Sunspots**

During which years were electrical disturbances on Earth most common? In this lab, you will consider the relationship between sunspot activity and magnetic storms on Earth.

Problem

How are magnetic storms on Earth related to sunspot activity?

Skills Focus

graphing, interpreting data

Materials

graph paper ruler

Procedure

1. Use the data in the table to plot a line graph of sunspot activity between 1972 and 2002. Use the next page or graph paper.
2. On the graph, label the *x*-axis "Year." Use a scale with 2-year intervals, from 1972 to 2002.
3. Label the *y*-axis "Sunspot Number." Use a scale of 0 through 160 in intervals of 10.
4. Graph a point for the Sunspot Number for each year.
5. Complete your graph by drawing lines to connect the points.

Sunspots			
Year	Sunspot Number	Year	Sunspot Number
1972	68.9	1988	100.2
1974	34.5	1990	142.6
1976	12.6	1992	94.3
1978	92.5	1994	29.9
1980	154.6	1996	8.6
1982	115.9	1998	64.3
1984	45.9	2000	119.6
1986	13.4	2002	104.0